

West Valley Recreation Corridor Presentation

October 18, 1999

- **I'd like to first thank John F. Long for his incredible vision which is really the reason we're here today.**
- **Maricopa County and the Maricopa County Flood Control District continue to be a major partner in this huge West Valley Recreation Corridor. In fact, nearly every new project or opportunity we discuss here this afternoon will actually be identified by the County. Before any of the trails or recreation areas are created, the County must first plan and integrate this huge flood control project into our community.**
- **For Maricopa County, what we're talking about today is really charting a totally new course for us. We must work with all the cities and businesses in the valley to find innovative uses which partner with Flood Control. And we're going to start off this massive undertaking in the Agua Fria and New Rivers by spending nearly \$2.5 million to integrate the flood channels.**

For example:

Instead of huge, ugly concrete flood channels, we're going to study and masterplan the river to look for more desirable and aesthetically pleasing opportunities.

Rather than just building a big maintenance road to service a flood channel, we're gonna see if it can be integrated as an equestrian trail or a hiking route.

Instead of a really ugly section of sand bed due to heavy groundwater withdrawal, we'll see if there's an opportunity to recharge water into our floodways for groundwater or maybe to restore riverbeds as natural riparian waterways.

Or maybe, we can get really extreme and identify an alternative transportation corridor where families can bike to shopping or community parks.

- And that, of course, is why we're all here today, because we all share that vision.

Ultimately, Maricopa County realizes the heavy burden and role we will play in the vision of a West Valley Recreation Corridor. Its will be our job to first closely study and identify what is possible,... and what is not compatible with Flood Control. And it will also be the County's role to coordinate this effort with the cities and the state so as to retain our Flood Control mandates.

Closing

I know the County is excited to be playing such a major role as part of Mr. Long's incredible vision for the West Valley. Together, I hope we've found a way to preserve our precious open space, and provide recreational opportunities for our children.

Thank you.